

I DO LIKE LAVERNE, SAYS SHIRLEY

LAVERNE And Shirley star Cindy Williams spoke candidly this week about her relationship with co-star Penny Marshall and her on-again, off-again romance with supporting actor David Lander.

The 29-year-old actress, who skyrocketed to fame in the hit TV series two years ago, said she wants to squash rumors that she and Penny, who portrays Laverne on the show, are feuding.

"Penny and I are not fighting," Cindy said. "We just don't spend a lot of time together away from the studio, but that's because we have our own separate lives."

"You can't fool the public by having people play best friends who don't like each other."

"We respect each other's talents and organically, there is something between us."

Cindy adamantly denied she is upset because members of Penny's family control the show.

But an executive at Paramount, where the situation comedy is filmed, said: "Penny's brother Gary produces the show. Her father is executive producer and she has a sister on the production staff."

"The whole thing smacks of nepotism — the show is deliberately built around Penny, what else can Cindy expect?"

Cindy confided that there is one thing about her newfound fame that is, in fact, upsetting — having her personal life known to the public.

"I'm basically a shy person," she said. "I get upset when I know that I have to go

somewhere and there are going to be crowds of people waiting there.

"I appreciate and enjoy all the unrequited love, but when I'm in a bad mood I'm always afraid that I won't be as nice to people as I should."

Cindy seemed more reticent when talking of her relationship with actor David Lander, who plays the greaser Squiggy in the series.

"David and I did have a romance at one time," Cindy admitted. "But it's very hard to describe our relationship today."

"If brothers and sisters could kiss . . . David is a brilliant man. Naturally I want his company. But Shirley doesn't date Squiggy, Cindy dates David, and vice-versa."

"As for marriage plans — there aren't any! If that day does come, I'll announce it myself!"

Although her role in **Laverne And Shirley** has made her wealthy, Cindy seems to reject the trappings of stardom.

"I live in Beverly Hills," she said, "but not the way people might think. My home isn't some splendid affair at all. It's the same two-room guest house that I had before I started the show."

Part of Cindy's reluctance to glamorise her lifestyle is her fear of becoming jaded by superstardom.

"I worry about becoming cold," she said. "I don't want this business to change me. And I don't think it will. But along with the good and talented people in this business, there are those who'll try to trip you up."

"I must admit that in the last year, I've really had my eyes opened." #



• **RIGHT: Shirley (Cindy Williams) and Laverne (Penny Marshall), still good friends off-series.**